



Annual Report for 1907,

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Frinton-on-Sea Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

General Review.

In submitting my Annual Report for your consideration, it is satisfactory to record that the year just ended has been a healthy one, from a sanitary point of view. There have been comparatively few serious illnesses, and the notifiable infectious disorders were not very numerous. The majority of them were imported into the district.

With the place steadily increasing year by year, it is satisfactory to note that the number of cases of infectious disease does not increase at the same rate as the population; and it is noteworthy that the last quarter of the year was entirely free from this kind of disease.

The death rate—though somewhat higher than the previous year—shows the district to be a healthy one; and again the Infant Mortality is nil., which compares most favourably with other districts. There was only one death under the age of five.

The summer was particularly healthy, and the usual intestinal disorders were entirely absent.

Considerable improvements have been made in the district, and many new houses have been erected.

Queen's Road has been taken over by the Council; it affords a good open road, and is a great improvement upon its previous condition.

The road question of Pole Barn Lane—in spite of opposition—has been satisfactorily settled, and already the work of making up is proceeding. When completed it will prove a great benefit to many, and from a health point of view—a much needed work. It not infrequently happens that the populous parts of a district are neglected, and hence they often become the centres of disease. It is no exaggeration to say that in the Pole Barn Lane area and Whitton Wood Lane the majority of our school children reside, and surely it is necessary to keep these parts of the district in a healthy condition, quite as much as the more frequently used thoroughfares.

Here is another matter which the Council must seriously consider ; in fact with the growing population it cannot be much longer delayed, and that is, the need of a suitable burial ground. The present cemetery cannot meet the needs of the district for any lengthened period, and moreover, it being so contiguous to houses, it is desirable that the Council consider this question as one needing prompt attention.

Removal of House Refuse.

There have been fewer complaints this year than in the previous one. The Council have issued instructions to householders with regard to house refuse and other matters, the result being in every way satisfactory.

Drainage.

The drainage of the district is satisfactory. Defects were found in the drainage of some of the older houses ; these were made good, and the majority of the premises were entirely re-drained.

Sewer Ventilating Columns.

There have been fewer complaints of late. Where the new sewer ventilating apparatus was fixed no nuisance has arisen, and it is the intention of the Council to further extend its use to parts where complaints have been recently made ; so it is to be hoped that before long we shall entirely escape from the nuisances that have previously arisen.

Water Supply.

During the year the supply has been both sufficient and of good quality. There has been no shortage at any period of the year.

An analysis made during the month of August showed it to be pure and wholesome, and of excellent quality.

Zymotic Disease.

Rather more cases of zymotic disease were reported than in previous years. There were twelve cases in all, viz. :—

Measles	...	...	5.
Chicken Pox	...	...	5.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1.
Erysipelas	...	...	1.
			—
			12.
			—

Without exception all the cases of Measles came under my immediate notice, and were distinctly imported ; and probably the cases of Chicken Pox had their origin outside the district, also the case of Scarlet Fever was traced, and was found to have been contracted in London. The zymotic

case rate for the year is 9·2 per mille, and though not comparing so favourably with the previous year when it was only 6·3 per mille, it must be noted, as previously stated, that all the cases of Measles were undoubtedly brought into the district.

The zymotic death rate: nil.

Vital Statistics.

The year just ended has been an exceptionally healthy one, in spite of the fact that more deaths have occurred than in the year preceding. An analysis of the causes will show that the higher mortality did not arise from insanitary conditions.

Four deaths occurred of persons over 70 years of age.

Three deaths occurred to persons non-resident in the district; and one of these three was the result of an accident, necessitating a Coroner's inquest; deducting these three deaths it gives us a death rate almost as low as that of the previous year, viz., 6·92.

Including all the deaths that were registered during the year the total is 12, and estimating the population at 1,300, it gives a not unsatisfactory death rate from all causes of 9·2 per mille. There are 342 inhabited dwelling houses in Frinton, so that the estimated population—1,300—must be well within the mark.

The birth rate is again somewhat lower than in the previous year. The total number of births registered was 18, as compared with 17 in previous year, but considering the increased population it gives us a rate of 13·8 per mille, against 15·4 in the previous year.

For the first time, more boys than girls were born during the year, viz., 11 and 7 respectively.

Climatology.

The climatic conditions of the past year were not altogether unfavourable, in spite of the summer months being cold and with less sunshine than usual.

It was not, however, a wet year; on the contrary, the actual rainfall was considerably less than that of the previous year. We entirely escaped the heavy rainfall of the South Coast.

The total amount of sunshine registered during the year was 1,647 hours, as compared with 1,926 hours in the previous year. The longest period during which bright sunshine was recorded every day was from April 22nd to August 25th, a stretch of 126 days.

The sun shone brightly on 315 days, leaving only 50 days without sunshine being recorded.

The sunniest months were March, 219·25 hours; May, 190·50 hours; September, 203·10 hours.

The total rainfall was only 17·84 inches, as compared with 22·98 inches in the foregoing year.

The wettest months were April, 2·61 inches, and October, 2·94 inches; the driest months November, ·43, and September, ·57.

The wettest day was June 1st, when ·62 inch was collected.

There were 215 days on which no rain fell.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. Wm. GODFREY, M.D., M.R.C.S.

FRINTON-ON-SEA,

January 24th, 1908.